

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. An incoming mail monitoring system, said system comprises:
2 a plurality of mailers' units that stores unique information contained
3 in a postal indicia affixed to mail;
4 a plurality of receptacles that reads and stores the unique
5 information contained in the postal indicia before the mail enters the interior of
6 the receptacle; and
7 a data center that receives information stored by the mailers' units
8 and the receptacles to identify the mailer and assess the possibility of the
9 presence of life-harming material in the mail.

1 2. The system claimed in claim 1, wherein the receptacle units include
2 a scanner that reads the postal indicia.

1 3. The system claimed in claim 2, wherein the scanner captures and
2 interprets the information contained in the postal indicia.

1 4. The system claimed in claim 2, wherein the scanner is located in a
2 control chamber.

1 5. The system claimed in claim 4, wherein the control chamber has a
2 locked door for isolating suspect mail.

1 6. The system claimed in claim 4, wherein the interior of the
2 receptacle comprises:

3 a inner chamber that receives mail from the control chamber that is not
4 suspected of having life harming material.

1 7. The system claimed in claim 6, wherein the inner chamber has a
2 locked door in which when open mail may be removed from the inner chamber.

1 8. The system claimed in claim 4, further including a slot for
2 depositing mail into the control chamber.

1 9. The system claimed in claim 8, further including:
2 means for closing the slot when the mail in the control chamber is
3 suspected of containing life harming substances.

1 10. The system claimed in claim 8, further comprising means for
2 indicating a message indicating the status of the receptacle.

1 11. The system claimed in claim 1, wherein the data center correlates the
2 recipient address of the mail with unique information contained in the postal
3 indicia.

1 12. The system claimed in claim 1, wherein the mailer's unit includes
2 the time and date that the postal indicia was affixed to the mail in the unique
3 information contained in the postal indicia.

1 13. The system claimed in claim 12, wherein the mailer's unit includes
2 other information regarding the mail piece in the unique information contained in
3 the postal indicia.

1 14. The system claimed in claim 13, wherein the data center further
2 includes:

3 means for comparing information received from the mailer's unit
4 with information received from one of the receptacle units.

1 15. The system claimed in claim 14, wherein the data center further
2 includes:

3 means for comparing other information received from the mailer's
4 unit with information received from one of the receptacle units.

1 16. The system claimed in claim 15 wherein the receptacle unit
2 includes:

3 means for informing the post of possibility of the presence of life-
4 harming material in the mail.

1 17. The system claimed in claim 1, wherein the mailer's unit includes
2 means for automatically transmitting information to the data center at
3 predetermined intervals.

1 18. The system claimed in claim 1, wherein the receptacle includes
2 means for automatically transmitting information to the data center at
3 predetermined intervals.

1 19. The system claimed in claim 1, wherein the postal indicia is on a
2 label that is affixed to the mail piece.

1 20. The system claimed in claim 1, wherein the postal indicia is printed
2 on a piece of paper that may be seen through an envelope forming the mail
3 piece.

1 21. The system claimed in claim 1, wherein the unique information is
2 encrypted.

1 22. The system claimed in claim 1, wherein the unique information is
2 printed in an area other than the indicia area of the mail piece.

1 23. The system claimed in claim 1, wherein the mailer's units are digital
2 postage meter units.

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